

## 1.3 Definition of Terms

The following terms and abbreviations are used in this report:

100-Year Floodplain - A floodplain simulated with flow rates determined from a rainfall event with a probability of occurrence of 1 percent in any given year.

ArcView – Desktop computer GIS software by ESRI.

BMP – Best management practices that include: structural devices and/or non-structural stormwater activities designed to improve the quality of urban stormwater runoff.

Buffer – A vegetated zone adjacent to a stream where development is restricted or controlled to minimize the effects of development.

Cluster (Open Space) Development – Buildings concentrated in specific areas to minimize infrastructure and development costs while achieving the allowable density. This approach allows the preservation of natural open space for recreation, common open space, and preservation of environmentally sensitive features.

Commercial – Areas of retail, office and service uses. Commercial uses include offices, warehouses, gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, and automobile repair.

Compensatory Storage –Floodplain storage created by removing an equal or greater volume of fill from the flood fringe than the storage volume lost due to fill allowed in the flood fringe.

Conveyance system – Natural channels and manmade structures that convey stormwater downstream.

CUP – Community Unit Plan. Lincoln Municipal Code, Chapter 27.65: Permits and encourages the creative design of new living areas that allow for increased dwellings per area in exchange for increased open space and common areas.

Detention Basin –A stormwater facility that collects and temporarily stores runoff to reduce peak flow rates and alleviate downstream flooding and erosion problems.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FIS – Flood Insurance Study.

Floodplain – The area of land that is inundated with water during a given storm event, generally a 100-year rain event.

Floodplain Fill – Earthen fill placed in the flood fringe to elevate the ground surface elevation above the 100-year flood elevation.

Floodplain Mitigation – Reduce the severity of flooding along a stream reach by increasing the conveyance area or the removal of obstructions.

Floodway – The extent of encroachment allowed within the floodplain that will not create more than the target increase in water surface elevation (e.g. 1-ft).

Flood Fringe – Area between the floodplain boundary and floodway boundary.

Flood bench – A technique used to provide flood control that removes earth from one or both stream banks such that the result is a visible bench when the stream is viewed in cross-section. The purpose is to increase conveyance capacity, which reduces water velocity, shear stresses, and water surface elevations.

GIS – Geographic Information System.

Green Space – Areas predominately used for active recreational uses, such as parks, golf courses, soccer or ball fields, and trails. Green space may also include areas of passive recreation uses as well as environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands.

Habitat – An area or type of area that supports plant or animal life.

HEC-RAS – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System. Computer simulation software for open channel one-dimensional steady flow hydraulics.

Hydrology Analysis – The study of the occurrence, distribution, movement, and properties of waters of the earth and their environmental relations.

Hydraulic Analysis – The study of stormwater flow through the conveyance system that includes underground pipelines, culverts, improved open channels, and natural creeks.

Impervious – The characteristic of a material that prevents the infiltration or passage of liquid through it. This may apply to roads, streets, parking lots, rooftops and sidewalks.

Industrial – Areas where railroads, manufacturing, trucking and transportation facilities are the dominant land use.

Lowest Adjacent Grade – Lowest ground elevation next to a building, generally used to determine if a building will be impacted by a flood event.

NGVD – National Geodetic Vertical Datum.

Open Channels – Also referred to as swales, grass channels, streams, and biofilters. These systems are used for the conveyance, retention, infiltration and filtration of stormwater runoff.

Open Space – Land set aside for public or private use within a development that is not built upon.

Overbanks – Area outside of the stream channel that conveys floodwater.

Passive Recreation – Community recreation facilities that have little or no impact on the surrounding area such as walking trails, nature parks, or arboretum.

Perennial stream – A stream channel that has running water throughout the year.

Public Infrastructure – Areas of public land use, streets, and/or structures that serve the general public.

PUD – Planned Unit Development.

Riparian – The vegetated zone bordering a stream or river.

Runoff – The portion of precipitation that is discharged from a drainage area.

Sedimentation – Soil particles suspended in stormwater that can settle in streambeds and disrupt the natural flow of the stream.

Slope – Defined by change in vertical elevation divided by horizontal distance and typically expressed as a percentage.

Subarea – A portion of a watershed which drains and concentrates at a point, typically at a catch basin, within a system of drainage pipes, or along a stream.

Swale – An open drainage channel or depression explicitly designed to detain and promote the filtration of stormwater runoff.

Tail water – Water, in a river or channel, immediately downstream from a structure.

Ultimate Build-Out – A future watershed land use condition that assumes the entire watershed has been developed, simulating an ultimate scenario.

Watershed – A region of land that drains to a river, creek, or body of water.

WSE – Water surface elevation.